

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07268 041854Z

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, SCUL

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINCULTURE

1. DURING A CALL TODAY ON CONSTANTINE TSATSOS, MINISTER OF CULTURE, ACCOMPANIED BY PAO, I FOUND TSATSOS TO BE AN URBANE AND CIVILIZED FRIEND IN THE U.S., WITH SOME FAMILY NOW LIVING IN RHODE ISLAND. ALTHOUGH I WAS PREPARED TO INQUIRE ABOUT CULTURAL MATTERS, TSATSOS SEEMED INTERESTED ONLY IN POLITICAL PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY AS THEY PERTAINED TO GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS, FOR AN IMPROVEMENT OF WHICH HE EXPRESSED GENUINE HOPE.

2. HE ATTRIBUTED THE CYPRUS CRISIS EXCLUSIVELY TO WHAT HE TERMED 'TWENTY YEARS OF GREEK DEMAGOGUERY,' LAYING ALL THE BLAME FOR THAT CONTINUING PROBLEM AT GREECE'S DOOR. THE MAIN PROBLEM WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS, IN HIS PHRASE, THE 'OSTENTATION OF FRIENDSHIP' TOWARDS GREECE DURING THE LAST SEVEN YEARS, WHICH REACHED A CLIMAX WITH THE VISIT OF FORMER VP AGNEW. BUT WHEN I ASKED HIM WHAT WE COULD DO ABOUT THAT, TSATSOS SAID IT WAS UP TO GREECE TO SET MATTERS STRAIGHT.

3. WHEN I RESPONDED ON CYPRUS AND EXPLAINED THE NEED FOR QUIET DIPLOMACY WITHOUT LOUD PROCLAMATIONS AGAINST TURKEY, AND THAT IT COULD ONLY BE THE UNITED STATES WHICH COULD PLAY SUCH A ROLE, TSATSOS AGREED AND SAID THAT AT THE CABINET MEETING TWO DAYS AGO, CARAMANLIS HAD SAID EXACTLY THE SAME THING.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 07268 041854Z

4. TSATSOS SAID THAT CARAMANLIS REQUIRED 180 SEATS IN PARLIAMENT

TO ORGANIZE A STRONG GOVERNMENT, AFTER WHICH HE WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE STUDENTS AND ORDER THEM BACK TO CLASSES. THE SAME HELD TRUE OF THE ARMY, WHICH TSATSOS SAID WAS DIVIDED AT PRESENT. MOST IMPORTANT WAS THE NEED FOR MODERATION IN DEALING WITH THE LEFT AND THE REMNANTS OF THE JUNTA. HE QUOTED CARAMANLIS DESCRIBING THE COMING

ELECTION AS THE 'DANCE OF THE DEVILS.'

5. TSATSOS DEPLORED THE SITUATION IN THE UNIVERSITIES AND SAID CARAMANLIS WAS EXTREMELY DISTURBED BY THE DISORDER ON THE CAMPUSES WHERE STUDENTS SIMPLY BARGED IN AND DISRUPTED FACULTY MEETINGS AND DEMANDED THE OUSTE OF PROFESSORS. PURGING THOSE APPOINTED BY THE JUNTA WAS NOT AN EASY MATTER, AND HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO PENALIZE CIVIL SERVANTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO EARNED VERY LITTLE, FOR SOME CHANCE REMARK IN FAVOR OF THE JUNTA DURING ITS RULE. TSATSOS ALSO EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT FORMED BY JOHN PEZMAZOGLU, MINISTER OF FINANCE, FROM WHOSE OFFICE I HAD JUST COME.

6. I CONCLUDED BY TELLING TSATSOS THAT SOME FUTURE DATE I WISHED TO DISCUSS CULTURAL MATTERS WITH HIM, TO WHICH HE IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT HE HAD SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON HOW INCREASED CULTURAL RELATIONS COULD CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER GREEK-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING AT THIS TIME.
KUBISCH

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